Good – Local – Governance in the WASH Sector

UNC Water & Health Conference
October 16, 2014

Lesley Pories
International Programs Manager
LPORIES@WATER.ORG
The global WASH crisis

- 780 million people lack water
- 2.5 billion lack proper sanitation
- US$260B = annual global economic losses
- 200 million hours wasted each day by women and girls collecting water
- 3.4 million people die each year from water-related illness

The challenge

- The WHO estimates: $200 billion/year to solve the crisis over the next five years and maintain the infrastructure.
- Annual investments by the international aid community currently amount to ~US$9 billion.
- Efforts in this sector focus on providing 80 to 90 percent subsidized solutions that view everyone in need as equally poor.
Charity alone is not enough
an Integrated Approach

Microfinance Institutions (lending groups)

WASH NGOs

Banks & Capital Markets

Households

Utilities & Contractors
Water.org is empowering millions of individuals around the world with access to safe water and sanitation, ensuring a better life for generations ahead.
Water.org in India
Water.org’s largest program: India

ACTIVE SINCE 2004

- Office in Chennai
- 8 local staff
- 3 US-based staff
- 20 active partner organizations
- 3 types of current programs: WaterCredit; RLF-led WaterCredit; WaterCredit Advisory Services

Just over 2 million people served
India
Loan coverage by partner as % of total loans

1. Asomi HQ, Kamrup
2. MHT HQ, Ahmedabad
3. Sangamithra HQ, Mysore
4. People's Forum HQ, Bhubaneswar
5. Ashikar HQ, Bhubaneswar
6. Gram Utthan HQ, Kendrapara
7. BWDA HQ, Villupuram
8. Dhan Foundation HQ, Madurai
9. ESAF HQ, Nagpur
10. Gramalaya HQ, Tiruchirappalli
11. GUARDIAN HQ, Tiruchirappalli
12. SIDUR HQ, Hyderabad
13. Mythri HQ, Bangalore
14. Grameen Koota HQ, Bangalore
15. Hand In Hand HQ, Kancheepuram
16. ODP HQ, Mysore
17. SKDRDP HQ, Belthangady
18. ASA HQ, Tiruchirappalli
19. Bandhan HQ, Kolkata

Legend:
- WO Partner HQ offices
- WO India Liaison Office

WO Partner loans disbursed
Percent of total loans
- 0.11% - 0.37%
- 0.72% - 1.90%
- 3.01% - 4.43%
- 12.75%
- 50.82%

Access to improved water sources in India

PIPED WATER CONNECTIONS

- Loans provide:
  - The up-front costs needed to obtain the water permit from the local government
  - Materials and labor
  - Average loan size is about 5,000 INR (~81 USD)

CHALLENGES

- Loans for water are considered “consumptive” and therefore more risky;
- Governments have to be willing to issue the permits;
- Having a piped water connection does not ensure water 24/7;
- Other water loans (borewells) require masons and/or plumbers
Access to improved sanitation in India

**TOILETS**

- A variety of toilet options with emphasis on low-cost models
- Loans from Water.org partners provide the up-front costs needed to obtain the materials and labor
- Average loan size is approximately 8,000-12,000 INR (~$133 – $200)

**CHALLENGES**

- Availability of masons
- People often decide to go “all in” with toilets, thus far exceeding loan
- Public perceptions of “good” toilets not always the best
Interacting with communities
Good relationships with the government are key

Sidur’s relationship with the local governing authorities has enabled them privileged access to cantonment areas and urban slums in Hyderabad.

- SIDUR has been invited by the Cantonment Board of Delhi to represent Civil Society on the Slum Redevelopment Committee
- Padma’s story about Sanjeev

Designation as “key resource” for states or multi-state groupings – authorization to give trainings to government officials

- Mythri
- SCOPE
Including your potential critics

When Adhikar conducts workshops and seminars, they invite local policemen, journalists, teachers, government officers, etc. to participate

- Garners local support
- Protected them from being lumped together with the “bad guys” during a recent chit fund crisis
- WASH loans actually improved image with public and some parts of local government

Gramalaya hosts meetings for government officials and takes them on exposure visits to villages

- Garners local political support
Potential conflicts and challenges to address

High demands from local politicians – they want the credit for the work

Bribe-taking from borrowers for permits
Thank you